

New M1A2 SEP Tanks Are Fielded At 3-67 Armor, Fort Hood

The 3rd Battalion, 67th Armor, part of the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, is the first unit to receive the new M1A2 SEP (System Enhancement Package) tanks. These 45 new tanks provide improved performance on many of the systems in the current M1A2, including second-generation Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) viewers that more effectively deal with targets at extended ranges.

The new tanks have improved microprocessors and additional memory, and a mass memory unit that houses the Abrams' embedded battle command software and digitized color maps, accessed with removable memory cartridges. The embedded battle command software is compliant with the Army common operating environment, so it can communicate with other Force XXI digital platforms.

The second-generation FLIR improves the capability of the commander's independent thermal viewer, which permits the tank commander to search for targets at extended ranges. The driver has a new integrated display which can provide him with steer-to-navigation data and system status reports. The display receives information from the Global Positioning System (GPS) satellites and can identify the vehicle's position in relation to the next objective. This allows the



driver to move from point to point on the battlefield without direction from the tank commander or constant reference to maps or terrain features.

Soldiers from 3-67 Armor are attending a 6-week instructional course, which will culminate in a 4-week gunnery this summer. The tanks will accompany the 2d Brigade Combat Team to the National Training Center next April.

The regiment's 1st Battalion has been turning in its tanks to the Texas National Guard in preparation for receiving the next batch of 45 M1A2 SEP tanks in October.

- Information for this article was supplied by SPC Kimberly Bethel, 4ID PAO Office